

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, February 7, 2000

Present: Billis, Bayless, Bendall, Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman, Runyan.

Absent: None.

Guests: Lisa Hitchcock, City Manager; Tim Crawford, Superintendent of Public Works; Herb Jenkins; Bill Lulham; Judy Horton; Steve Corey; Jan Scott; Millie Taute; Larry LeCureux; Jackie Leone, The Argus Press; Gene & Shirley Sanderson; Dick & Pat Sanderson; Officer Kevin Clark, Police Department; Sue Huff, Corunna Library; Don Runyon; Stephanie Wuttke, The Independent; Dennis Lenker; Doug Savick; Don Surprenant; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers by Mayor Billis at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Hornus moved, Dumond seconded to approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus, Runyan, Bayless, Bendall.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Hornus moved, Dumond seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Councilperson Bayless stated he would like a different way to approve the agenda when there are additions and changes. He suggested adding a resolution to consider additions, corrections and changes before a motion to approve the agenda is made. Mayor Billis stated this was something that could be discussed at a later time.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bayless, Runyan, Bendall, Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Runyan moved, Hornus seconded to approve the vendor disbursements as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Ockerman, Bayless, Hornus, Bendall, Dumond.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Mayor Billis stated after the last meeting, he received several phone calls from people who were audience members. They voiced their complaints that there was a lot of discussion in the audience during the council meeting. He further stated there are times when he is so focused that he is oblivious to what is going on in the audience. He also stated everyone in the audience has the right to hear what is going on

during the meeting. Mayor Billis advised council could simply say “Point of Order” to advise him that things are getting out of hand and he will then address the situation. He asked the audience to respect each other and asked council to keep their conversations at a minimum.

Bill Lulham asked if anything was being done about the smell north of town. He stated it is quite obvious the smell is coming from the factory north of town. He further stated it was his understanding the situation has been referred to the Department of Environmental Quality. Ms. Hitchcock advised that was correct. Mr. Lulham asked if the smell could be coming from an exhaust system. Ms. Hitchcock advised she was not sure how their system was set up. Mr. Lulham stated it could be possible the exhaust system was filled with algae. He asked if the building inspector had checked out the situation. He further asked if the height of the exhaust system was kept low because of airport regulations and if the system could be made any higher. He also asked what the algae would do to people’s health. Mayor Billis asked what the status of the situation was. Ms. Hitchcock advised she spoke with the Department of Environmental Quality on this date and was told they have been to the factory and it is their opinion the smell is coming from there. She further advised since the article appeared in the paper, city hall has received calls from individuals who feel the situation may be affecting their health. She also advised she has referred these calls to the Department of Environmental Quality. Ms. Hitchcock stated if the Department of Environmental Quality determines the smell is coming from a specific location, it is up to the violator to correct the problem. It is not up to the Department of Environmental Quality or the city to tell them what the problem is or how to take care of it. The company would have to come up with its own plan of action to correct the problem. Mayor Billis stated it appears the Department of Environmental Quality does stay in touch with city hall. Ms. Hitchcock advised yes, they also send the city copies of any violations. Councilperson Runyan stated he was told people in the nursing home across the street are getting sick from the smell. He further stated he has been doing research on the situation for about six months, and according to the Department of Environmental Quality, the smell is non-toxic and non-hazardous to someone’s health, but now, he is hearing that it could be hazardous. He also stated he has heard there is a filter system that can be installed. Councilperson Runyan advised the city also has a nuisance ordinance that could be pursued. Ms. Hitchcock advised Gary Palmer has been through the factory, but she has not received a report from him. Councilperson Ockerman stated he is glad something is being done to correct the situation, but he wants something more concrete. He asked Ms. Hitchcock if the Department of Environmental Quality gave her a time frame on when they would get back to her. Ms. Hitchcock advised yes. She further advised city hall is logging all calls received and is giving out the Department of Environmental Quality’s number to those who call. Councilperson Ockerman asked when the Department of Environmental Quality would get back with Ms. Hitchcock. Ms. Hitchcock advised she was informed a notice would be sent out this week. Bill Lulham stated it was good to hear that something was being done about the situation.

Don Runyon read page 26, paragraph F of the city charter and stated let’s all stay here tonight.

Judy Horton asked if the sewer project would start in May. Ms. Hitchcock advised yes, weather permitting. Ms. Horton asked if there was any time frame on when the construction would get from city hall to the 300 block of North Shiawassee Street. Ms. Hitchcock advised no, not at this point. It was her understanding the project would start at the bridge and then pick up Mack Street both ways.

Pat Sanderson read a letter she had prepared, which was in response to the letter sent by Councilperson Bayless to the mayor. She asked when does such a vindictive letter come before council none other than Mr. Bayless. As you know, his wife also works with none other than our city manager in the front office. Many of you know by this that these were blatant lies that only he probably came up with without getting the truth before he blew off steam before the council. When does the city charter change its roles, only when he sits on the council.

LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT: Councilperson Bendall advised the library annual report was presented in a verbal form last year, and it would be presented in the same form this year. Sue Huff introduced herself and proceeded to explain the library annual report. She advised the library does not charge a non-resident fee for anyone to use the facility and the library provides several programs to the community such as an outreach program for the homebound.

CONSIDER RELOCATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELECTRIC UTILITIES: Bendall moved, Runyan seconded to approve the relocation and installation charges of electric utilities from Consumers Energy in the amount of \$9,464.50 for underground services associated with the streetscape project.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Hornus, Bendall, Dumond, Bayless, Ockerman, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER CROSS CONNECTION CORRECTION BIDS: Hornus moved, Dumond seconded to accept the bid from Sam McLaren Plumbing and Heating for cross connection work in the amount of \$798.50.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Bendall, Bayless, Runyan, Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER WATER METER PURCHASE: Mayor Billis asked if the county still wanted to have the existing meter tested by the manufacturer. Ms. Hitchcock advised yes, and the county will pay for the meter testing. She further advised since the city is in a meter replacement program, it makes sense for the city to replace the meter. Mayor Billis asked if the meter could be put back together after it was tested. Ms. Hitchcock advised no. Mayor Billis asked if the manufacturer has any type of lifetime warranty on their product. Ms. Hitchcock advised there is some type of warranty on them, but she was not familiar with it. Councilperson Ockerman stated he does not want to be a bad neighbor, but he wanted to know what would happen if it is determined the meter is good. He further

stated the cost of the new meter is on the city and not the county. Ms. Hitchcock stated a new meter from the factory generally runs two-percent slow. As the water flows through the meter, it does not speed up, it slows down. She further stated a fifteen-year old meter is probably running slow. Councilperson Ockerman asked if his meter would be replaced free of charge if he had a problem with his meter. Ms. Hitchcock advised if the meter was one of the new touch pad meters, a flow test would be done first. Otherwise, the city would replace the meter so the resident would have a newer meter. She further advised the county has agreed to pay the \$300 cost for the meter test. Councilperson Bendall advised Capital Consultants has told council meter replacement should be a top priority. Councilperson Ockerman asked Ms. Hitchcock if she could get information on the warranty and the life expectancy of the meter. Ms. Hitchcock advised yes.

Councilperson Ockerman asked if the county was told to check with a plumber first. Tim Crawford advised he spent some time at the jail and the meter did not move unless there was water running. Dumond moved, Hornus seconded to approve the purchase of a water meter for the Shiawassee County jail in the amount of \$1,425. Councilperson Ockerman asked if the county would pay the testing fee to the company. Ms. Hitchcock advised the company would send the bill to the city and the county will reimburse the city.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Dumond, Hornus, Ockerman, Bendall, Runyan, Bayless.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Don Surprenant asked if there were any alternative routes for when the bridge is closed and if so, what they are. Mayor Billis stated it was his understanding the bridge would be constructed with one lane open. Ms. Hitchcock advised the state has said it is possible, but will not determine anything until they finish their study. She further advised she has been told by the city's engineers that since the public services are located on both sides of the river the state probably would not force any community into a situation where there would be a long drive to respond to an emergency. Mr. Surprenant stated the city does not know if that will happen. Ms. Hitchcock advised right now, the city is not positive about anything. Councilperson Bendall advised the bridge construction would not take place this summer. The soonest the construction could start would be in the spring of 2001. Ms. Hitchcock advised the construction could start in August 2000, but there would be three or four months in the winter when nothing would be done. It would make more sense to start it next year. Mr. Surprenant asked if the reason for not starting the construction before August was due to funding. Ms. Hitchcock advised no, the bridge has not been designed yet. She further advised the city's engineers would actually design the bridge, but the design would have to be approved by the state. She also advised the state will mandate what the bridge width will be based on traffic counts, which have been done.

ADJOURN: Ockerman moved, Hornus seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ockerman, Dumond, Hornus, Runyan, Bayless, Bendall.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 9:05 p.m.

DR. JAMES BILLIS, MAYOR

YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK